

In the Claims

1. (cancelled).
2. (currently amended) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim ~~1~~ 21, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface tapers from a front thickness in a region adjacent said heel front edge to a second, relatively greater thickness in a region adjacent said heel rear edge.
3. (currently amended) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim ~~1~~ 21 ~~or 2~~, wherein said heel front edge defines a notch extending toward said heel rear edge.
4. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said center region surface narrows inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.
5. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said center region surface narrows curvedly.
6. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge.
7. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

8. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 4, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

9. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge.

10. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

3
11. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 3, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

12. (currently amended) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim-1 21
~~or 2~~, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge.

13. (currently amended) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim-1 21
~~or 2~~, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

14. (currently amended) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim-1 21
~~or 2~~, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

15. (currently amended) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim-1 21
~~or 2~~, wherein said center region surface narrows inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

16. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 15, wherein said center region surface narrows curvedly.

17. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 15, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge.

18. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 15, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

19. (original) The heel surface element for a bowling shoe of claim 16, wherein said heel surface element has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

20. (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) A ~~bowling shoe with a heel defining having a lower-heel~~ surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling motion, said heel surface comprising a horseshoe-shape surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling motion and a center region surface connecting at least two localized areas of said horseshoe-shape surface together and being spaced from contact with the bowling alley approach surface, said center region surface being defined peripherally by said horseshoe-shape surface and extending from a heel front edge towards a heel rear edge; said heel surface being removably mounted to the bowling shoe.

22. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 21, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface tapers from a front thickness in a region adjacent said heel front edge to a second, relatively greater thickness in a region adjacent said heel rear edge.

23. (currently amended) The bowling shoe of claim 21-~~or~~22, wherein said heel front edge defines a notch extending toward said heel rear edge.

24. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said center region surface narrows inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

25. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said center region surface narrows curvedly.

26. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

27. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

28. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 24, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

29. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

30. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

31. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 23, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

32. (currently amended) The bowling shoe of claim 21-~~or~~-22, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

33. (currently amended) The bowling shoe of claim 21-~~or~~-22, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

34. (currently amended) The bowling shoe of claim 21-~~or~~-22, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

35. (currently amended) The bowling shoe of claim 21-~~or~~-22, wherein said center region surface narrows inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge.

36. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 35, wherein said center region surface narrows curvedly.

37. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 35, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

38. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 35, wherein said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

39. (original) The bowling shoe of claim 36, wherein said heel surface has a rounded front or leading edge and said horseshoe-shape surface has a rounded front or leading edge.

40. (currently amended) A ~~bowling shoe~~ with a heel defining having a lower heel surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling motion, said heel surface comprising: a horseshoe-shape surface disposed for engagement upon a bowling alley approach surface during bowling motion and a center region surface connecting at least two localized areas of said horseshoe-shape surface together and being spaced from contact with the bowling alley approach surface, said center region surface being defined peripherally by said horseshoe-shape surface and extending from a heel front edge towards a heel rear edge; said heel surface being removably mounted to the bowling shoe; said horseshoe-shape surface tapering from a front thickness in a region adjacent said heel front edge to a second, relatively greater rear thickness in a region adjacent said heel rear edge; said heel front edge defining a notch extending toward said heel rear edge; said center region surface narrowing curv-
edly inwardly from said heel front edge toward said heel rear edge; and said heel surface and said horseshoe-shape surface each having a rounded front or leading edge.

41. (withdrawn).

42. (cancelled).

Page 10

Serial No. 09/991,101

August 19, 2003

43. (currently amended) The bowling shoe of claim 4042, wherein opposed surfaces of said heel and said heel surface element define cooperating elements of a loop ~~hook-~~ and-loop type fastener system.
